

REMARKS

Applicant expresses appreciation to the Examiner for consideration of the subject patent application. This amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed July 17, 2003. Claims 5-11 were objected to. Claims 1-4 and 12 were rejected. The claims have been amended to address the concerns raised by the Examiner.

Claims 1-20 were originally presented. Claims 1-4 and 6-20 remain in the application. Claim 5 has been canceled without prejudice. Claims 1, 6 and 12 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

The indication of allowable claims 13-20, and the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 5-11, if rewritten in independent form, is acknowledged with appreciation.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claim 12 was rejected under § 112, 2nd paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, the Examiner noted that claim 12 lacks positive antecedent basis for “the air pump”. Claim 12 has been amended to recite “the air pump means”, for which positive antecedent basis is now provided by claim 1, as amended. The Applicant thus respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1 and 4 (including independent claim 1) were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Placzek. In accordance with the Examiner’s indication of allowable subject matter, the Applicant has amended claim 1 to include the limitations of claim 5. Placzek does not teach or suggest these limitations. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1 and 4 are allowable, and urges the Examiner to withdraw the rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 3 and 4 (including independent claim 1) were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Mason in view of Berndt and Placzek. Claim 2 was rejected under 35

U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Mason, Berndt and Placzek as applied to claim 1, and further in view of Devine et al. As noted above, the Applicant has amended claim 1 to include the limitations of claim 5, in accordance with the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter. The cited references, taken alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest all of the limitations now present in claim 1 as amended. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-4 are allowable, and urges the Examiner to withdraw the rejections.

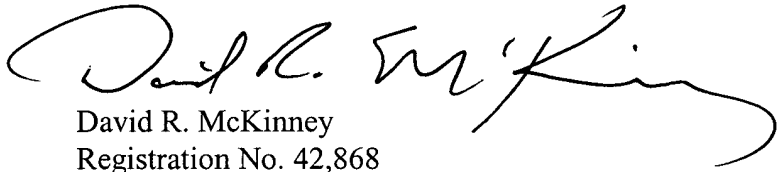
CONCLUSION

In light of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that pending claims 1-4 and 6-20 are now in condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicant requests that the rejections and objections be withdrawn, and that the claims be allowed and passed to issue. If any impediment to the allowance of these claims remains after entry of this Amendment, the Examiner is strongly encouraged to call David R. McKinney at (801) 566-6633 so that such matters may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee or to credit any overpayment in connection with this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 20-0100.

DATED this 8th day of October, 2003.

Respectfully submitted,


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